

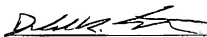
thermoformable plastic sheet having a surface area greater than the thermoformable plastic material.

With respect to independent claim 38, this claims has been amended to more positively recite the manipulative step set forth therein. Particularly, claim 38 now recites forming areas for increased support in said positive mold by modifying the positive mold of the lower extremity at predetermined locations on said positive mold such that said positive mold deviates from a shape of the lower extremity. The claim goes on to recite that the areas of increased support act as pressure points against the lower extremity. Clearly, the prior art of record and particularly, the patent to Wehr fails to disclose or remotely suggest such features.

Additionally, as noted hereinabove, claim 39 has been canceled.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, she is hereby invited to telephone council to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald R. Studebaker  
Reg. No. 32,815

Sixbey, Friedman, Leedom & Ferguson, P.C.  
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800  
McLean, Virginia 22102  
(703) 790-9110